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COSTA, Scott [US/US]; 25614 Broadcrest Court, Katy, TX 77494 (US). WASSON, Russell [US/US]; 2647 Highway J, Bourbon, MO 65441 (US).

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(74) Agent: HAYNES AND BOONE LLP; Suite 3100, 901 Main Street., Dallas, TX 75202 (US).

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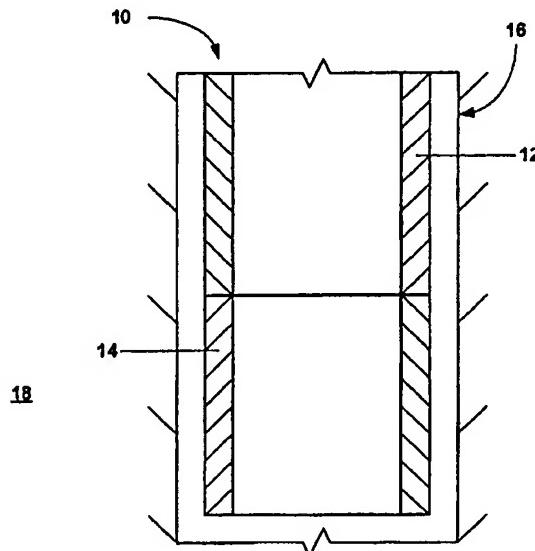
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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): EVENTURE GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY, LLC [US/US]; 15995 North Barkers Landing, Suite 350, Houston, TX 77084 (US).

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: RADIAL EXPANSION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A method of radially expanding and plastically deforming tubular members (10, 100, 200) is provided that includes selecting a tubular member, determining an anisotropy value and a strain hardening value for the selected tubular member (10, 100, 200), multiplying the anisotropy value times the strain hardening value to generate an expandability value for the selected tubular member (10, 100, 200); and if the expandability value is greater than 0.12, then radially expanding and plastically deforming the selected tubular member (10, 100, 200).

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**Declaration under Rule 4.17:**

- *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))*

**Published:**

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**

31 August 2006

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/28642

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC: E21B 23/00(2006.01), 17/00(2006.01)

USPC: 166/380,250.01

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 166/380, 250.01, 207, 382, 242.1

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages   | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| X,E        | US2005/0217768 A1 (ASAHI et al) 06 October 2005 (06.10.2005), see the entire patent, in particular Paragraphs [0052]-[0072], [0079]-[0109] and [0170]. | 12-13                 |
| A          | US 6,070,671 A (CUMMING et al) 06 June 2000 (06.06.2000), column 3, lines 10-28.   | 6-13                  |

|   |  |  |                          |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. | <input type="checkbox"/>   | See patent family annex. |
| <p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"B" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> |  |  |                          |
|   | "T"  | later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention  |                          |
|   | "X"  | document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone   |                          |
|   | "Y"  | document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art |                          |
|   | "&"  | document member of the same patent family  |                          |

Date of the actual completion of the international search

08 May 2006 (08.05.2006)

Date of mailing of the international search report

14 JUL 2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Faxsimile No. (571) 273-3201

Authorized officer

Hoang Dang

Telephone No. 571-272-3600

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/US05/28642

**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.: 1-5  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
the claims are directed to a mathematical expression.
2.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3.  Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

**Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 3 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:  
Please See Continuation Sheet

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

**Remark on Protest**

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.  
PCT/US05/28642

**BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING**

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 6-11, drawn to a method of radially expanding and plastically deforming tubular members.

Group II, claim(s) 12-13, drawn to a method of selecting tubular members for radial expansion and plastic deformation.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The special technical feature of the claims of Group I is the use of anisotropy value and strain hardening value for the tubular member to determine the expandability of the tubular member which is then selected and radially expanded. The special technical feature of the claims of Group II is the use of carbon content and carbon equivalent value for the tubular member to determine whether it is suitable for radial expansion and plastic deformation. The claims of Groups I and II lack unity because they rely on different special technical features.